



## **Phrasal Verbs:**

Main Verb + preposition/particle

The preposition or particle has a **core meaning** that connects all the phrasal verbs that carry it.

For example

- Go on
- Move on
- Take on

All focus on continuing or maintaining an action or activity

- Go **on**: continue talking, walking, moving during a journey or activity
- Move **on**: end the focus on the current topic and continue to the next one
- Take **on**: become responsible for tasks, work, or a role in an organization so those activities can continue

### **Meanings of the Particles**

- On: (1) attach (2) continue
- Off: (1) detach (2) leave
- Up: (1) emphasis/completeness of the action (2) increase (3) distinction between two verbs (4) move an object or person towards ourselves or to a higher position
- Down: (1) reduce (2) remove something higher/wider (3) temporarily break
- Out: (1) exit (2) complete/solve (3) find something not in immediate experience (4) hide/exclude something (5) extinguish/lose enthusiasm
- In: enter
- Away: the method by which you leave/release something
- About (more UK English)/Around (more US English): to do something with no particular purpose
- Back: to return
- Over: (1) to pass above, through, or on something (2) to repeat something

### **Meanings of Common Main Verbs**

- Drop: sudden movement in a direction
- Take: carry/bring
- Put: place
- Go: move (especially away from the speaker), act
- Pick: select/collect
- Come: move towards the speaker
- Find: locate/discover
- Point: show/highlight/demonstrate
- Get: obtain, transform a status
- Set: create, arrange
- Look: find/locate/consult/notice

### **Forming Phrasal Verbs**

- Drop (suddenly) + out (exit) = drop out (of an educational program or level of school)
- Set (arrange) + up (emphasis/completeness) = arrange physical objects or organize events from zero
- Get (transform a status) + back (return) = move in reverse to avoid a danger
- Put (place) + off (detach) = postpone a scheduled event / discourage someone's interest on purpose
- Come (move towards the speaker) + over (move through space) = travel to the speaker's home

### **Exercise**

Use the lists of main verbs and prepositions to complete the phrasal verbs.

1. \_\_\_\_ in (enter the place where I am)
2. Look \_\_\_\_ (consult a reference for specific information)
3. Go \_\_\_\_ (lights losing power and therefore being extinguished)
4. \_\_\_\_ out (remove ordered food from a restaurant)
5. Set \_\_\_\_ (arrange specific smaller items across an area, such as knives and forks on a table)
6. Calm \_\_\_\_ (reduce your anger or stress)
7. \_\_\_\_ away (leave the city and ordinary life for a short vacation)
8. Put \_\_\_\_ (insult someone, naming them something that reduces their status or self-esteem)
9. \_\_\_\_ up (select and collect someone or something from their location)
10. \_\_\_\_ away (leave the current location and the speaker)

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/phrasal-verbs-exercise-1.html>

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/phrasal-verbs-exercise-2.html>